

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously amended) A method of specifically detecting the *Bacillus anthracis* surface array protein SEQ ID NO:1 in a test sample, the method comprising:  
contacting a test sample with a first antibody that specifically binds to *Bacillus anthracis* surface array protein as set forth in SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the first antibody forms a complex with the surface array protein but does not form a complex with protein from non-*anthracis Bacillus* species present in the test sample; and  
detecting the complex with a labeled second antibody that binds to the complex, wherein the detection of the complex is indicative of the presence of *Bacillus anthracis* in the test sample.
2. (Canceled)
- 2/ 3. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the *B. anthracis* present in the test sample is encapsulated.
4. (Canceled)
- 3/ 5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first or second antibody is a recombinantly produced antibody.
- 4/ 6. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, wherein the first or second antibody is a recombinantly produced polyclonal antibody.
- 5/ 7. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first or second antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

~~6~~ 8. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the test sample is collected from a site of suspected or threatened anthrax contamination.

~~7~~ ~~9~~ 9. (Original) The method of claim ~~8~~ <sup>6</sup>, wherein the test sample is collected using a cyclonic collection device.

~~8~~ ~~10~~ 10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the test sample is not cultured prior to contacting with the first antibody.

~~9~~ ~~11~~ 11. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first antibody is immobilized on a solid support.

~~10~~ ~~12~~ 12. (Original) The method of claim ~~11~~ <sup>9</sup>, wherein the solid support is a microtiter dish.

~~11~~ ~~13~~ 13. (Previously presented) The method of claim ~~12~~ <sup>9</sup>, wherein the first antibody is immobilized on the solid support prior to contacting the first antibody with the test sample.

~~12~~ ~~14~~ 14. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the method can detect *B. anthracis* at concentrations as low as about 10,000 cfu/ml.

~~13~~ ~~15~~ 15. (Original) The method of claim ~~14~~ <sup>12</sup>, wherein the method can detect *B. anthracis* at concentrations as low as about 5,000 cfu/ml.

~~14~~ ~~16~~ 16. (Original) The method of claim ~~15~~ <sup>13</sup>, wherein the method can detect *B. anthracis* at concentrations as low as about 1,800 cfu/ml.

17-18. (Canceled)

~~15~~ ~~19~~ 19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the second antibody binds to a different epitope of the surface array protein than does the first antibody.

20. (Canceled)

16 21. (Previously amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the label of the labeled second antibody is selected from the group consisting of a radioactive label, a fluorophore, a dye, an enzyme, and a chemiluminescent label.

17 22. (Previously amended) A kit for detecting the presence or absence of *Bacillus anthracis* in a sample, the kit comprising:

a first antibody that specifically binds to the surface array protein set forth in SEQ ID NO:1 but does not bind to protein from non-*anthracis* *Bacillus* species; and  
a label.

28 23. (Currently Amended) The kit of claim 22 24 34, wherein the solid support is a microtiter dish.

24. (Canceled)

18 25. (Previously amended) The kit of claim 22, wherein the first antibody is a recombinant polyclonal antibody.

19 26. (Previously amended) The kit of claim 22, wherein the first antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

20 27. (Previously amended) The kit of claim 22, wherein the first antibody is a mixture of monoclonal and polyclonal antibody preparations.

21 28. (Original) The kit of claim 22, wherein the kit further comprises written instructions for using the kit to determine whether a test sample contains *B. anthracis*.

22 29. (Previously presented) The kit according to claim 22, wherein the kit further comprises a positive control that comprises a polypeptide that comprises an antigenic determinant of a *B. anthracis* surface array protein, wherein the antigenic determinant binds to said first antibody.

30-32. (Canceled.)

23 33. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 22, wherein the kit further comprises a second antibody which binds the surface array protein as set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

24 34. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 22, wherein the first antibody is immobilized on a solid support.

25 35. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 33, wherein the second antibody is a recombinant polyclonal antibody.

26 36. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 33, wherein the second antibody is a monoclonal antibody.

27 37. (Previously presented) The kit of claim 33, wherein the second antibody is a mixture of monoclonal and polyclonal antibody preparations.